

Kaskaskia Watershed Summit 2006

"The Potential of the Kaskaskia Watershed"



February 27, 2006
Mariner's Village Conference Center
#1 Resort Drive
Carlyle, Illinois

Kaskaskia Watershed Association, Inc.

Larry Hasheider, President KWA

Hello, and "WELCOME" to the 6th Annual Kaskaskia Watershed Association, Inc. "KWA" Summit.

My first year as KWA President has been very successful. Many things have happened in the Watershed this past year and with our theme "The Potential of the Kaskaskia Watershed" our many speakers will bring you up to date on this year's accomplishments and just a few of the upcoming projects KWA and the watershed groups are pursuing.

In July our 5th Annual Showcasing hosted by the Lower Kaskaskia Stakeholder's , Inc. was very successful. It was held in Evansville, Illinois breaking attendance records and enjoyed by all.

I attended the White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation in which KWA was selected by the Corps along with five other projects to be listed to attend and have an exhibit at the three-day White House Conference in St. Louis, August 29-31. Thanks to Southwestern Illinois RC&D and the Corps for a great exhibit and to several KWA stakeholders; Ted Beier, Bruce Condill, Mike Kuhn, Janice Wall, and Norma Hall who manned the exhibit with Yvette Dulle helping with registration.

I'm looking forward to another year and the many challenges. Thanks to everyone who have worked hard this past year on the many projects throughout the watershed and thanks for everyone for attending our 6th Annual Summit.



**Special "Thanks" to
the Carlyle Lake
Association and the
Lower Kaskaskia
Stakeholders in their
generous donation for
the Summit.**



US Army Corps of Engineers

Gregory Raimondo, LTC, Acting Commander St. Louis District

On behalf of Colonel Lewis Setliff and the St. Louis District, Army Corps of Engineers, I'd like to welcome you to the 2006 Kaskaskia Watershed Summit.

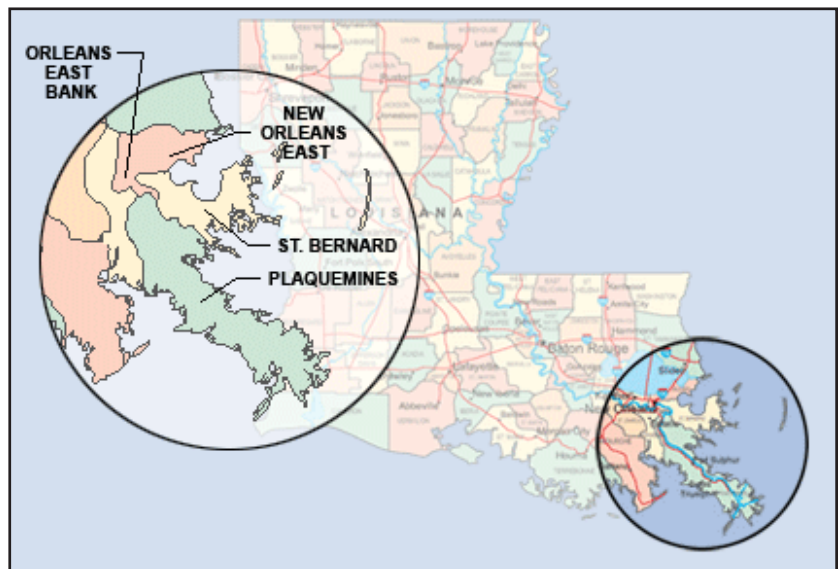
Colonel Setliff wanted to be here today but he is currently commanding Task Force Guardian, the team responsible for rebuilding New Orleans's flood and hurricane protection system to its pre-Katrina levels.

Through the years, Kaskaskia Watershed has been repeatedly recognized and honored for its model partnerships. I commend and congratulate you on your continuing joint efforts that support the health and vitality of this region.

The Kaskaskia Watershed is a frequent example of sound and successful watershed management set forth by the Army Corps of Engineers. In fact, our higher headquarters selected the Kaskaskia Watershed as one of only six national projects invited to attend and staff an exhibit at last year's White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation.

In the coming years, we expect to see continued growth in this region and even stronger partnerships. Continue to do what you do best – working together for the benefit of the whole.

Thank you for being here today and enjoy the summit.



Carlyle Lake Association, Inc.(CLA)

by Norma Hall, Special Projects Program Ranger

After serving as President of the Carlyle Lake Association, Inc. for 10 years (1996-2006) James (Jim) Harris announced at the CLA Annual Meeting he was no longer going to serve as President of CLA. He thanked everyone for all their support throughout the years and he would continue to serve on the board. Jim organized the Carlyle Lake Association, Inc., attended and supported the technical committee in the writing of the Carlyle Lake Watershed Plan and served as President for the IL Department of Natural Resources Ecosystem C-2000 Partnership. He served as President of the Kaskaskia Watershed Association, Inc. (KWA) for one term. (2004-2005) and was instrumental in the consolidation of the groups forming KWA. For 25 years+ he has been an active member of the Carlyle Sailing Association, Inc.



The US Army Corps of Engineers and the many stakeholders throughout the Kaskaskia Watershed thank you for your devotion, long hours and achievements that have contributed significantly to the protection and enhancement of the ecological conditions in the Kaskaskia Watershed.

Thanks Jim!

Let's welcome the new President of CLA, **Ted Beier** a member since the organization's founding and a director representing boating and sailing of the Association. He also serves the KWA Board. Ted was raised in Breese and is retired as a structural engineer for McDonnell-Douglas. He has held many offices in Carlyle Sailing Association including commodore.



Illinois Watershed Association

George Andres, board member of Kaskaskia Watershed Association, Inc. (KWA), Vice President on the Lower Kaskaskia Stakeholder's, Inc. (LKSI) and past President of KWA and LKSI will serve on the board of the new Illinois Watershed Association.



In a survey conducted by University of Illinois Extension in late 2003, over 160 watershed groups were identified in Illinois. A large and diverse group, it appeared that developing a statewide watershed would be beneficial. In February of 2004, at the Connecting Illinois Watersheds conference, an informational meeting was held to discuss formation of a statewide watershed association and in April 2005 a steering committee was formed.

The watersheds were divided into ten and each known watershed group was notified to nominate someone to serve on the Board.

"The Mission of the Illinois Watershed Association is to improve information sharing and technical support among watershed organizations, advocate sound watershed management practices and programs, and amplify local watershed group's public outreach and educational efforts."

For more information and map of the ten watersheds visit the website at www.watershed.uiuc.edu or contact Jason Beverlin, Co-Chair, The Nature Conservancy, jbeverlin@tnc.org.

6th Annual Barge Trip "Evening on the Kaskaskia River"

by Norma Hall, Chairperson

The 6th Annual Barge Trip, "**Evening on the Kaskaskia River**" is scheduled for July 21, 2006 to depart from the Kaskaskia Lock & Dam, Modoc, IL. This is hosted by the Lower Kaskaskia Stakeholders, Inc. (LKSI) for their members and invited guests. The purpose of the event is to showcase the Kaskaskia River, recent developments, and upcoming projects, provide and visit with other stakeholders, elected officials, other State, Federal and local agencies and enjoy the beautiful setting, good food and entertainment.

The Lower Kaskaskia Stakeholder's represent the many diverse aspects of this valuable resource including agriculture, business, industry, navigation, the environment, conservation and recreation. LKSI prides itself on being a consensus building organization to promote the sustainable use of this resource.



Designed for Shooters, Built for Recreation!

Governor Rod R. Blagojevich and Acting Director Sam Flood are proud to bring you the premiere World Shooting and Recreational Complex in 2006.



This unique site will be located in Southern Illinois near the City of Sparta, near three airports and less than 50 miles from three metropolitan areas including St. Louis, MO. Visitors will have access to a variety of amenities from quaint local restaurants and shops, to the bustling activities of the St. Louis area.

The complex will feature a variety of activities for the avid sportsman.

- 1500+ acres including 250 acres of water
- 100 trap fields extending 3.5 miles
- 2 sporting clay courses
- Skeet
- ATV demonstration area
- Cowboy Action Shooting corral
- Championship 3-D archery course
- Permanent exhibitor building
- 600 RV campsites with electric and water, and potential for camping jamborees accommodating 1000+ campers
- Recreational center building
- Multi-purpose, multi-use recreational facility



Glen Schuetz – recipient of Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn 2005 Environmental Hero Award

On Thursday, December 29, 2005, Lt. Governor Pat Quinn presented 2005 Environmental Hero Awards to 13 citizens, cities, and groups in recognition of their commitment to providing and maintaining a healthful environment for this and future generations in Illinois. Glen Schuetz, USDA Earth Team Volunteer was one of the recipients of this award.

Glen, a retired landowner, has put much effort into protecting the state's largest contiguous bottomland hardwood forest. In addition to implementing a number of conservation programs on his own land, including: the Conservation Reserve Program, Hole in the Doughnut, Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program and forest management plans, Glen is a board member with the Original Kaskaskia Area Wilderness and the Kaskaskia Watershed Association.

Glen logged more than 100 hours last year treating the grounds with chemicals to prevent the invasive garlic mustard plant from taking over the land. He buys his own chemicals and has obtained three grants to do the work that fights several plants that "upset the natural balance of things."

Glen has worked as a volunteer for the Southwestern Illinois RC&D, Inc. to improve wildlife habitat within Washington County, including performing prescribed burns on a number of landowners prairie restorations, as well as installing wetlands, native season grasses and bottomland forest seedlings.

Glen has also assisted researchers from the University of Illinois in studying the decline of neo-tropical songbirds within the Kaskaskia River corridor, being instrumental in the researcher's ability to gain access to private property within the corridor. Glen also worked with diligence to gain authorization for the Forest Legacy program within Southwestern Illinois. He has also worked with the Washington County SWCD to obtain three C2000 grants to control garlic mustard, an invasive species, within Washington County.

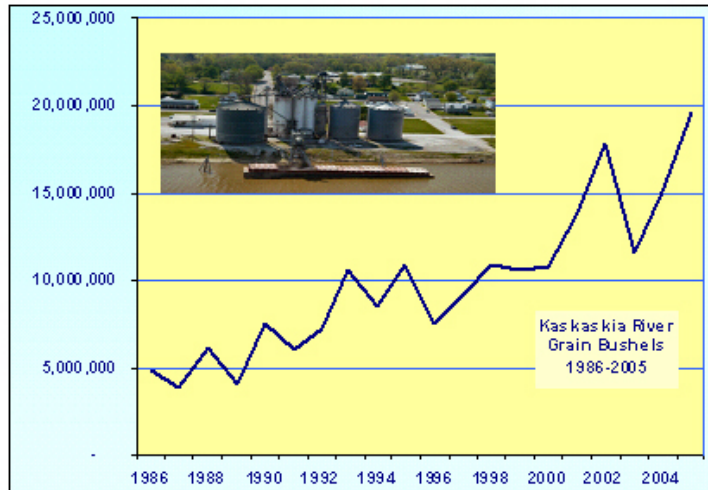


Glen Schuetz (l) presents Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn (r) with an arrowhead

Kaskaskia River Potential?

by Michael Kuhn, Gateway FS Inc.

When the farmer-owners of Gateway FS took the bold step of building a barge loading facility on the Kaskaskia River they had no idea the potential would prove so large.



During the past twenty years, the volume of grain shipped on the river has quadrupled to 20 million bushels annually.

Farmers who had hoped to ship \$2 million worth of grain in their first year on the river now ship \$70 million worth each year—that is indeed proving the potential of the wonderful Kaskaskia River. Today, on top of all that grain, the same farmers also barge in their potash, phosphate and dry nitrogen fertilizers on the Kaskaskia River. That is worth another \$5 million annually—more *Kaskaskia River Potential!*

To go even further, the cooperative just completed a \$1.5 million upgrade to handle even more grain faster than ever. Originally grain was delivered to the river mostly by wagons along with some trucks and there was one small dump pit. Eventually a second pit was added as the volume grew and more and bigger trucks started to be used. Then that second pit was made larger and faster with new conveyors and other equipment added. A new, larger belt was built next in order to take the grain from the elevator out to the barges faster.

Recently farmers' use of semi tractor-trailers to deliver their grain has become the norm. In 2005 a new upgrade added even another large dump pit. It can swallow a whole semi load of grain in 30-40 seconds. The added equipment now feeds the barge-loading belt fast enough that on busy days the system will load 5 barges per day (the number expected over several months in the beginning!). To deal with the large number of trucks each day, a new weighing, sampling, and grading office was also built. Besides being equipped with the latest computer equipment, it includes separate inbound and outbound scales which allow trucks to move through faster than ever before. Scale-side printing equipment allows farmers to retrieve their grain tickets right from the cab and keep rolling for another load without ever getting out of their trucks.

Why is all this important. Farmers gain \$.12 per bushel on their grain thanks to the river and over \$10 per ton on their fertilizer. That's nearly \$3 million per year of savings for them thanks to the Kaskaskia River! *Kaskaskia River Potential Is Real!*

Kaskaskia Watershed Performance Measures

by George Andreas

The Kaskaskia Watershed is heavily dependent on Federal and State appropriations to achieve its goals and objectives. With increasingly tight domestic budgets in Washington and Springfield, competition for these dollars has become intense. Federal and State entities for which we are dependent on delivering local services within the watershed include: US Department of Agriculture (NRCS, Rural Development, FSA, RC&D, etc.). US Fish & Wildlife Service, US Environmental Protection Agency, US Army Corps of Engineers, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Department of Agriculture, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, etc.

It is no longer the situation in which we can depend on each of these entities to request and dispense budgetary authority on a fair and uniform basis. It has long been noted that Southern Illinois receives back a disproportionately low return on every tax dollar we send in to Washington and Springfield. So, how do we go about competing for these precious resource dollars which in turn help us accomplish our goals and objectives.

We must be salesmen for our programs and causes. We must convince agency leaders, Congressional representatives, and State Legislators that projects, programs, and resources in the Kaskaskia Watershed are not only worthwhile, but great and getting better. We can not simply use the squeaky wheel theory in which we go to Congress or the Legislature and say keep giving us money because we're good guys.

We must have solid information, which demonstrates how we are doing as a watershed on key measurable and quantitative basis. We can do this by tracking the performance of a variety of conditions and attributes within the watershed. We call these performance measures.

Last year we started tracking certain performance measure pertaining to the use of the Lower Kaskaskia in the navigation section of the river. At the Summit we will be discussing the update of these performance measures and the effect that use of these measures has had on Corps of Engineers funding levels for the Lower Kaskaskia. We will also be issuing a challenge for development of other performance measures, which can be developed and utilized for the entire watershed.





KWA

Kaskaskia Watershed Association, Inc.

Reach 1—Headwaters to Lake Shelbyville Dam
Lake Shelbyville Development Association (LSDA)
Upper Kaskaskia C2000 Ecosystem Partnership
Dr. Jerry Snyder
Bruce Condill
Nancy Cruitt
John Highland
Steve Jurgens

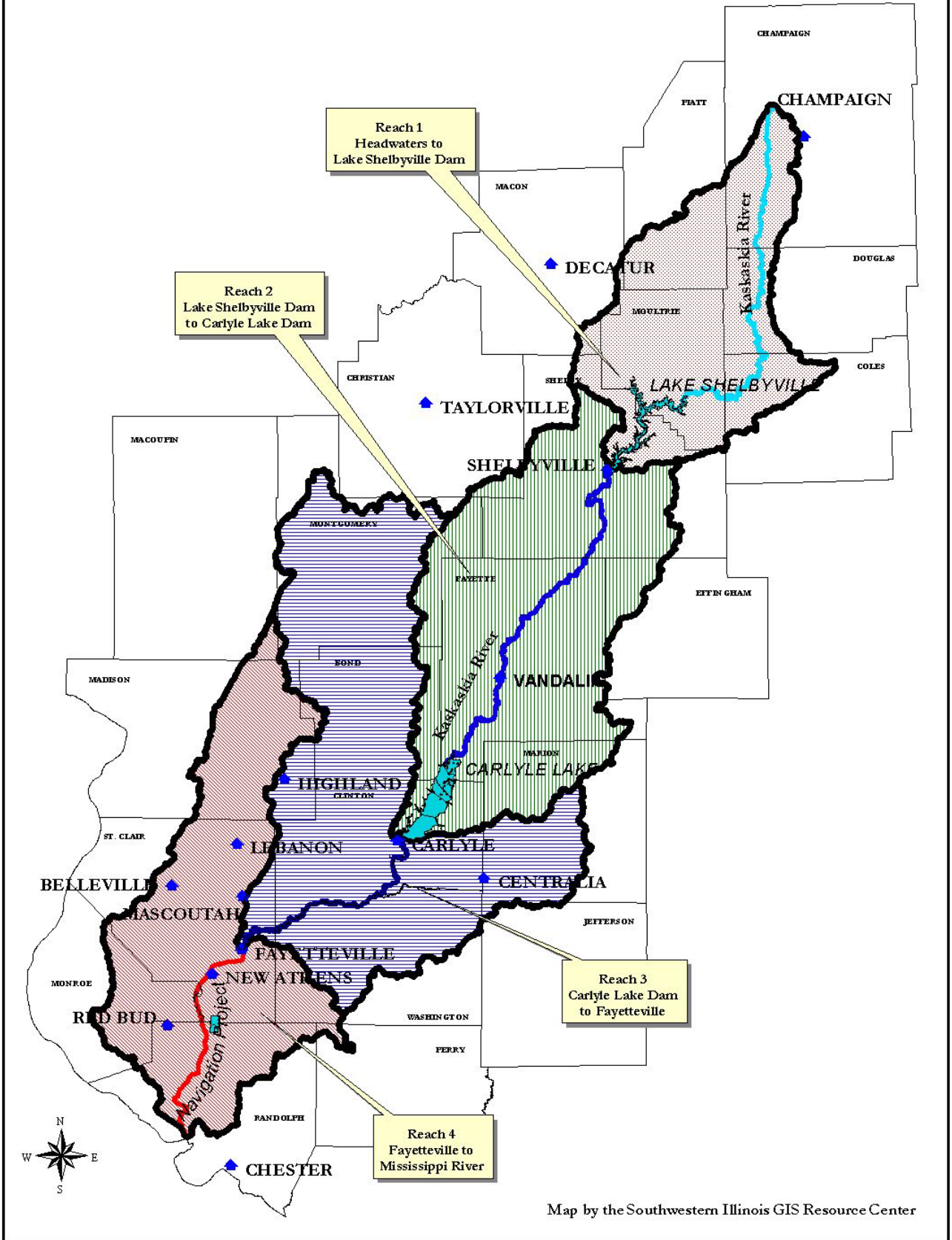
Reach 2—Lake Shelbyville Dam to Carlyle Lake Dam
Carlyle Lake Association, Inc. (CLA)
Mid Kaskaskia Coalition
Carlyle Lake Watershed C2000 Ecosystem Partnership
Ted Beier
Jim Harris
Greg Kintz
Edwin Luebbers
Russell Schwarm

Reach 3—Carlyle Lake Dam to Fayetteville
OKAW River Basin Coalition (ORBC)
Original Kaskaskia Area Wilderness, Inc. (OKAW)
Kaskaskia River/Shoal Creek C2000 Ecosystem Partnership
Larry Hasheider, President
Gary Knolhoff
Joe Luechtefeld
Earl Schnitker
Glen Schuetz

Reach 4—Fayetteville to Mississippi River
Lower Kaskaskia Stakeholders, Inc. (LKSI)
Lower Kaskaskia/Silver Creek C2000 Ecosystem Partnership
Leonard Vasquez
George Andres
Norman Rieso
Wes Stellhorn
Pat Wetzel

Norman Conrad, Attorney

Reaches of the Kaskaskia River



White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation (WHCCC)

August 29-31, 2005

The Kaskaskia Watershed Association, Inc. (KWA) was selected by the Corps along with five other projects to be listed to attend and have an exhibit at the three day WHCCC held at the American Center in St. Louis on August 29-31.

Larry Hasheider, KWA President attended the conference. Several KWA stakeholders; Mike Kuhn, Bruce Condill, Ted Beier, Janice Wall, and Norma Hall manned the exhibit with Yvette Dulle helping with registration.

The conference was initiated by President Bush through an Executive order aimed at strengthening conservation partnerships and promoting stewardship of our natural and cultural resources.

It was a great opportunity for KWA to be included with over 1,300 participants and over 500 exhibitors from across the nation and included as one of the 150 conservation projects profiled in the special publication "Faces and Places of Cooperative Conservation".

Only three other WHCCC conferences have been held by past Presidents: 1908 Theodore Roosevelt, 1962 John F. Kennedy and 1965 Lyndon B. Johnson. The Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Environmental Protection Agency and the Council on Environmental Quality co-hosted the event. Go to <http://conservation.ceq.gov/> for more details.



Kaskaskia River, Illinois Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program by Dave Eustis

In the FY06 Illinois state budget, the Governor has reopened CREP sign up in the Illinois River; therefore, the Kaskaskia Watershed Association, Inc. is going forward with an application in support of the Kaskaskia River.

The Kaskaskia River, Illinois Enhancement Program envisions the restoration of up to 100,000 acres, which will be open to all eligible land within the 22 counties that lie within the watershed. The pilot component of the effort, which will address 20,000 acres, will focus on eligible lands within the Kaskaskia River Watershed in Clinton, Fayette, Marion, and Washington Counties.

The CREP allows willing landowners to sign up marginal farmland into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and to then receive an enhancement payment from the State of Illinois for extending the contract agreement for an additional 15 or 35 years, or through a perpetual conservation easement. The rates of payment are based on soil types (CRP program) and the duration of the extended easement (state enhancement portion). Additional incentives may also be available based on the restoration practice chosen.

This area has been selected based on the following attributes:

1. Agriculture is an important component of the regional economy within the proposed project area.
2. Project would protect and enhance the natural values of an ecologically important region.
3. Project would provide significant restoration of species on the Federal Endangered Species list, as well as state listed species.

The Kaskaskia River, Illinois Enhancement Program will focus on the following eligible acreage:

1. Cropland within the 100-year floodplain
2. Cropland with a weighted average Erodibility Index (EI) ≥ 8
3. Cropland within ½ mile of the five (5) large forest blocks
4. Cropland within specific zones defined as *grassland restoration areas*

A sample letter of support is available at http://www.swircd.org/crep_info.htm.

Additional information on CREP in Illinois can be found at: <http://www.ilcrep.org/>

ARMY and USDA Sign Partnership Agreement

WASHINGTON, July 7, 2005—During a ceremony today at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) (OASA-CW) signed a partnership agreement to improve management of the nation's water and related natural resources. NRCS Chief Bruce Knight and George S. Dunlop, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, signed the agreement.

"This partnership reaffirms the commitment of USDA and the Department of the Army to work together to support cooperative conservation activities that impact wetlands and water resources and protect the nation's watersheds," said Knight.

The partnership agreement will enable NRCS and OASA-CW, through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Civil Works mission, to work together in areas of mutual interest including wetlands conservation compliance and regulation; wetland creation, restoration and enhancement; natural disaster recovery; and watershed planning and implementation.

The two agencies established the following partnership goals:

To express mutual commitment to comprehensive water and related natural resources management and conservation in support of Executive Order 13352 on "Facilitation of Cooperative Conservation."

- To create and support three national teams to review existing authorities and programs, identify areas of concern and need for increased collaboration, and support implementation of actions identified for: watershed planning and implementation; wetland creation, restoration, and enhancement; and natural disaster recovery.
- To coordinate other programs and activities including Wetland Conservation Compliance and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.
- To support and encourage the establishment of six to ten field implementation teams to serve as pilot activities for implementing innovations, removing impediments to the NRCS/USACE partnership, and engaging and supporting local leadership in solving water and related natural resources problems.

Additional information on NRCS is available at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov> and on USACE at <http://www.usace.army.mil>

C2000 Grants in the Kaskaskia Watershed 2006

Fayette County Soil & Water Conservation District,

\$12,365.76. Carlyle Lake Watershed Newsletter. This project will allow the Fayette County Soil & Water Conservation District to continue publishing the Carlyle Lake Newsletter three times a year for two years, which reaches nearly 6,000 watershed land owners and operators.

Southwestern Illinois Resource Plan - \$31,700

This project will develop a practical implementation plan that communities can utilize to assist in working with information developed in the Land Use Evaluation and Impact Assessment Model and the Southwestern Illinois Resource Plan. The focus will be on how digital data can be utilized in the decision-making process to help protect natural, cultural, and agricultural resources

Southwestern Illinois Exotics Brochure - \$22,400

The RC&D will direct a multi-organizational effort to develop an exotic species brochure specifically tailored for Southwestern Illinois. The brochure will be mailed to more than 15,000 landowners, identifying key exotic species and describing common methods of eradication in an effort to better manage private property.

Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District,

\$22,000.00. Garlic Mustard Control in the Kaskaskia. Garlic Mustard was identified in the Elkhorn Creek drainage area of the Kaskaskia River Basin approximately 5 years ago. Local volunteers, landowners and governmental agencies will remove the exotic weed in an effort to eradicate it from the area.

Shoal Creek Watershed Stream Stabilization - \$16,334

This project will utilize existing aerial photography in accessing and developing stream bank stabilization projects within Shoal Creek. Landowners will be contacted and feasible projects will be designed and submitted to the Illinois Department of Agriculture for implementation.

Conservation Subdivision Guidance - \$21,637

This project will create a guidance document for use within Southwestern Illinois that encourages the use of conservation subdivisions. Local experts will use existing information in the documents developed. The document will be presented to officials at both the county and community level to encourage the adoption of its recommendations.

Southwestern Illinois Bluff Ecosystem Restoration -

\$17,500 This project will facilitate exotic species removal and brush control on at least six high quality natural areas along the bluff ecosystem in St. Clair, Monroe, and Randolph Counties. Approximately 50 acres of hill prairie/glade and forested bluff, which contains rare species found nowhere else in the state, will benefit from the work.

Water Control Manual Revisions

by Dave Busse, USACE

The Water Control Manuals for both Lake Shelbyville and Carlyle Lake are scheduled for revision this year. They will be rewritten to make them more readable and to incorporate all the approved changes that have occurred since the last rewrite. In addition, four public meetings have been held for public input throughout the watershed. The input gathered may result in minor changes being made to both plans. The final draft will be available some time in March and more public meetings will be held before sending to Division for approval.

Evansville Waterfront

The Kaskaskia River Port District and the Village of Evansville developed a long range comprehensive plan for the redevelopment of Evansville Waterfront. A 300' floating pier has been turned into a year around Bar and Grill, the "Port of Evansville" with food, water, restrooms, fuel, portable water, sewage pump off, shore power, trash removal and courtesy docks for transient boats. The Visitor Center has opened with pavilions along the waterfront. Future improvements include courtesy docks, marina, improvements to existing boat ramps, parking lots and an RV Park.

The Kaskaskia Port District has received a big boat grant, Big-P Boating Infrastructure Grant through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for \$50,000 from the Fish & Wildlife Service. The grant money will be used to install ADA approved transient docks (12) at the Port of Evansville. Between Alton and Cairo on the Mississippi River there is an extreme shortage of facilities and services for transient boats. Evansville (mile 10) will provide a safe harbor and valuable services for all sizes of transient boats as well as the many customers that utilize the Kaskaskia Project.



Save the Date for the 6th Annual KWA Showcase at Sullivan Illinois! Headwaters to Lake Shelbyville Dam

Please "Save the Date" for the upcoming Kaskaskia Watershed Association 6th Annual Showcase, hosted by the Lake Shelbyville Development Association (LSDA) on Friday, August 25th, 2006, at the American Legion Hall in Sullivan, Illinois.

This years Showcase is shaping up to be a full day of exciting field trips, informative speakers and a great opportunity for networking with fellow watershed enthusiasts. Some of the highlights of the morning include speakers such as Colonel Lewis Setliff from the Army Corps of Engineers; Dr. Richard Cooke, University of Illinois Assistant Professor in Agricultural Engineering and legislature representatives from the area.

After lunch there will be field trips to the Kaskaskia Biological Station operated by the IDNR and U of I; Fin and Feather Nursery Pond, Fishhook Wildlife Management Area and other sites. There will be discussions and examples of environmental stewardship activities and sound innovative farming practices. Plan to attend a get-a-behind-the-scenes look at what the KWA members are doing to ensure that the Upper Kaskaskia Watershed remains pristine for future generations.



Prairie State Energy Campus: A Model for Clean Electricity Generation Using Illinois Coal

The Prairie State Energy Campus is pleased to have the endorsement of the Kaskaskia Watershed Association. Like KWA, Prairie State is committed to environmental stewardship, which includes protecting the Kaskaskia River for navigation, recreation, and municipal water users downriver.

Every aspect of Prairie State is being designed to protect the environment, and the plant will fully comply with all requirements set forth in environmental permits that govern operations. Prairie State has taken significant steps to ensure that water resources are utilized appropriately. On average, Prairie State will utilize less than 1 percent of the Kaskaskia River's daily flow. The use of efficient cooling towers and reuse of water will significantly minimize withdrawal from the Kaskaskia River.

"I want to thank Larry Hasheider and the KWA for their strong support of Prairie State," said Colin Kelly, president of Prairie State Generating Company. "Prairie State has taken great effort to be a responsible steward of our precious water resources. New technology and increasingly clean coal-fueled electricity carry enormous benefits by ensuring affordable electricity, a strong economy, a clean environment, and energy security."

Prairie State enjoys strong state and local support from area residents, business leaders and elected officials because of its ability to generate clean, low-cost electricity, create 450 permanent jobs and inject nearly \$100 million in annual economic benefits into the regional economy.

The largest private capital project planned for Southern Illinois in the state's history, Prairie State is being billed as a model for new electricity generation using Illinois coal, thanks to a first-of-its-kind application of 21st century technologies to protect the environment. The project, a major electricity generating station and coal mine in Washington County, will represent an investment of more than \$500 million in advanced technologies and will be among the cleanest coal plants in America. Prairie State hopes to break ground in late 2006, after final permits are received.



RICHARD J. DURBIN
ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON RULES
AND ADMINISTRATION

ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC
LEADER

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1304

332 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1304
(202) 224-2152
TTY (202) 224-8180

230 SOUTH DEARBORN, 38TH FLOOR
CHICAGO, IL 60604
(312) 353-4952

525 SOUTH EIGHTH STREET
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
(217) 492-4062

701 NORTH COURT STREET
MARION, IL 62959
(618) 998-8812

durbin.senate.gov

February 27, 2006

Mr. Larry Hasheider
Chairman
Kaskaskia Watershed Association
c/o Southwestern Illinois RC&D
Mascoutah, IL 622582229

Dear Larry:

I would like to commend the Kaskaskia Watershed Association for its outstanding work to protect one of our most valuable natural resources. The dedication of the 1000+ stakeholders from parts of 22 counties in the watershed has made the Kaskaskia Water Association a model for the nation.

As in the past, funding for these programs is in jeopardy. I will continue to be a strong supporter of the initiatives that fund the important work of protecting our natural resources.

Please feel free to contact me if I can assist you in this critical endeavor.

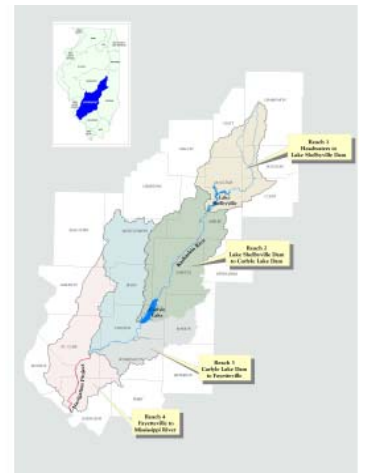
Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

RJD/ad

Agenda



“The Potential of the Kaskaskia Watershed”

- 8:30 – 9:00 Registration
- 9:00 – 9:30 Welcome, Larry Hasheider, President KWA
Mayor Van Johnson, Mayor of Carlyle
Jeff Ludington, Carlyle Chamber of Commerce
- 9:30 – 9:45 Gregory Raimondo, LTC, Acting Commander, USACE News on COL Lewis Setliff and duty “Task Force Guardian”
Dennis Fenske, Acting Chief of Operations Readiness & Regulatory Division, USACE, Watershed Accomplishments, Activities and FY07 Budget
- 9:45 – 10:00 Leslie Sgro, Deputy Director, IDNR
Gary Clark, Chief of Water Resources, IDNR, Water Supply and Economic Development
- 10:00 – 10:30 David Busse, Chief, Hydrologic & Hydraulics Branch, USACE, Water Control Plan
- 10:30 – 10:45 Break
- 10:45 – 11:15 Larry Hasheider, KWA President, Assessment of Idle Lands
- 11:15 – 11:30 Dave Eustis, Operations Manager, Southwestern Illinois RC&D, CREP for the Kaskaskia Watershed
- 11:30 – 11:45 Marc Miller, Lt. Gov. Office, Making a Difference in Your Watershed
- 11:45 – 1:00 Lunch
Cong. John Shimkus, Keynote Speaker and 2007 Farm Bill/CREP and WRDA, White House Conference Certificates
- 1:00 – 1:15 George Andres, KRPD, Kaskaskia Watershed Performance Measures Update
- 1:15 – 1:45 Tammy Watson, IDNR, Progress Report on the C-2000 Ecosystem Program
- 1:45 – 2:00 Break
- 2:00 – 2:15 Greg Kintz, Tradewinds Marina, Water-Based Recreation Potential
- 2:15 – 2:30 Mike Kuhn, General Manager Gateway FS, Expansion of Gateway FS Export Capacity
- 2:30 – 2:45 Colin Kelley, President, Prairie State Energy Campus, Prairie State Energy Company
- 2:45 – 3:00 Scott Leas, Development Director, Southwestern Illinois Tourism Development Office, Tourism in the Watershed
- 3:00 - 3:15 Closing Comments and Recognition – Adjourn